General Assembly

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3 March 2009

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 11

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/63/L.52 and Add.1)*]

63/134. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds continues to be a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate Governments and the illicit traffic in and proliferation of armaments, especially small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing also the devastating impact of conflicts fuelled by the trade in conflict diamonds on the peace, safety and security of people in affected countries, and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts,

Noting the negative impact of such conflicts on regional stability and the obligations placed upon States by the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing, therefore, that continued action to curb the trade in conflict diamonds is imperative,

Recalling that the elimination of illicit diamonds from legitimate trade is the primary objective of the Kimberley Process,

Acknowledging that the diamond sector is an important catalyst for achieving poverty reduction and meeting the requirements of the Millennium Development Goals in producing countries,

Bearing in mind the positive benefits of the legitimate diamond trade to producing countries, and underlining the need for continued international action to prevent the problem of conflict diamonds from negatively affecting the trade in legitimate diamonds, which makes a critical contribution to the economies of many of the producing, exporting and importing States, especially developing States,

Noting that the vast majority of rough diamonds produced in the world are from legitimate sources,

Recalling the Charter and all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council related to conflict diamonds, and determined to contribute to and support the implementation of the measures provided for in those resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1459 (2003) of 28 January 2003, in which the Council strongly supported the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme[1] as a valuable contribution against trafficking in conflict diamonds,

Welcoming the important contribution of the Kimberley Process, which was initiated by African diamond-producing countries,

Noting with satisfaction that the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme continues to have a positive impact in reducing the opportunity for conflict diamonds to play a role in fuelling armed conflict and would help to protect legitimate trade and ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds,

Acknowledging that lessons learned from the Kimberley Process are useful for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in its consideration of the countries included in its agenda, as appropriate,

Recalling its resolutions 55/56 of 1 December 2000, 56/263 of 13 March 2002, 57/302 of 15 April 2003, 58/290 of 14 April 2004, 59/144 of 15 December 2004, 60/182 of 20 December 2005, 61/28 of 4 December 2006 and 62/11 of 26 November 2007, in which it called for the development and implementation as well as a periodic review of proposals for a simple, effective and pragmatic international certification scheme for rough diamonds,

Welcoming, in this regard, the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in such a way as not to impede the legitimate trade in diamonds or impose an undue burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, nor hinder the development of the diamond industry,

Welcoming also the decision of forty-nine Kimberley Process Participants, representing seventy-five countries, including the twenty-seven members of the European Union represented by the European Commission, to address the problem of conflict diamonds by participating in the Process and implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

Noting the consensual outcomes of the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, held in New Delhi from 3 to 6 November 2008,

Welcoming the important contributions made and that continue to be made by civil society and the diamond industry, in particular the World Diamond Council which represents all aspects of the diamond industry, to assist international efforts to stop the trade in conflict diamonds,

Welcoming also the voluntary self-regulation initiatives for the diamond industry announced by the World Diamond Council, and recognizing that a system of such voluntary self-regulation contributes, as described in the Interlaken Declaration of 5 November 2002 on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds,[2] to ensuring the effectiveness of national systems of internal control for rough diamonds,

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[1] See A/57/489.

[2] Ibid., annex 2.

Noting with appreciation that the Kimberley Process has pursued its deliberations on an inclusive basis, involving concerned stakeholders, including producing, exporting and importing States, the diamond industry and civil society, as well as applicant States and international organizations,

Recognizing that State sovereignty should be fully respected and that the principles of equality, mutual benefits and consensus should be adhered to,

Recognizing also that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into effect on 1 January 2003, will be credible only if all Participants have requisite national legislation coupled with effective and credible internal systems of control designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds in the chain of producing, exporting and importing rough diamonds within their own territories, while taking into account that differences in production methods and trading practices, as well as differences in institutional controls thereof, may require different approaches to meeting minimum standards,

Welcoming the efforts of the Kimberley Process to elaborate new rules and procedural norms for regulating the activities of its working bodies, Participants and observers,

1. *Reaffirms its strong and continuing support* for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme[1] and the Kimberley Process as a whole;

2. *Recognizes* that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme can help to ensure the effective implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council containing sanctions on the trade in conflict diamonds and act as a mechanism for the prevention of future conflicts, and calls for the full implementation of existing Council measures targeting the illicit trade in rough diamonds, particularly conflict diamonds which play a role in fuelling conflict;

3. *Also recognizes* the important contributions that the international efforts to address the problem of conflict diamonds, including the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, have made to the settlement of conflicts and the consolidation of peace in Angola, Liberia and Sierra Leone;

4. *Notes* the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 15 May 2003 granting a waiver with respect to the measures taken to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, effective from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2006,[3] and the decision of the General Council of 17 November 2006 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2012;[4]

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Kimberley Process submitted pursuant to resolution 62/11,[5] and congratulates the participating Governments, the regional economic integration organization, the diamond industry and civil society organizations involved in the Process for contributing to the development, implementation and monitoring of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

6. *Acknowledges* the progress made by Kimberley Process working groups, Participants and observers during 2008 in fulfilling the objectives set by the Chair to strengthen implementation of the peer review system, increase the transparency and accuracy of statistics, promote research into the traceability of diamonds, promote

[3] World Trade Organization, document WT/L/518. Available from http://docsonline.wto.org.

[4] World Trade Organization, document G/C/W/559/Rev.1. Available from http://docsonline.wto.org.

[5] A/63/560, enclosure.

inclusiveness by broadening the level of involvement by both Governments and civil society in the Certification Scheme, foster a sense of ownership by Participants, improve information and communication flows and enhance the capacity of the Certification Scheme to respond to emerging challenges;

7. *Stresses* that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential, and encourages all Member States to contribute to the work of the Kimberley Process by seeking membership, participating actively in the Certification Scheme and complying with its undertakings;

8. *Welcomes* the admission in 2008 of Mexico to the Kimberley Process and the resumption of trade in rough diamonds by the Congo, and recognizes the increased involvement of civil society organizations, in particular those from producer countries, in the Process;

9. *Also welcomes* the guidelines endorsed by the New Delhi plenary meeting that recommend interim measures for serious non-compliance with Kimberley Process minimum requirements, set out the guiding principles for determination of serious non-compliance and include an indicative list of escalating measures, namely, targeted statistical analysis, enhanced monitoring and additional verification measures, mobilization of technical assistance, and suspension and resumption of export and import operations;[6]

10. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in line with paragraph 14 of its resolution 62/11, a visit led by the representative of the Chair of the Kimberley Process was undertaken to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which helped to provide a better understanding of the challenges being experienced by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the diamond mining sector and led to the recommendation that the Process should continue to engage with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which has voluntarily separated from the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for a period of two years, and to assist and support the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in developing a plan of action to implement the minimum standards of the Certification Scheme and fully reintegrate into the Scheme;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the willingness of the Kimberley Process to support and provide technical assistance to those Participants experiencing temporary difficulties in complying with the requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and welcomes the recommendations in this regard of the Process plenary meeting held in New Delhi, which include a provision that such Participants would, if the Participation Committee so determined, retain membership and participate in the Process activities, and continue to be subject to all other obligations under the Certification Scheme;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* the systematization of the work of the Kimberley Process with respect to continuing to develop transparent and uniform rules and procedures, introducing a mechanism for consultations and coordination within the Process, and adoption by the New Delhi plenary meeting of the rules and criteria for selection of the Vice-Chair of the Process, rules and procedures for readmission of a former Process Participant, and guiding principles on participation of the guests of the Process Chair in the Process;[6]

13. *Notes with appreciation* the cooperation of the Kimberley Process with the United Nations on the issue of diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire, by participating in

[6] Ibid., annex I.

a joint United Nations-Kimberley Process field mission to Côte d'Ivoire and by pursuing the monitoring of diamond activity in Côte d'Ivoire, welcomes plans by Côte d'Ivoire to re-establish Government control over diamond mining and trade, and encourages continued cooperation between the Process and the United Nations in tackling this issue, with the ultimate objective of meeting the preconditions for the lifting of United Nations sanctions on the trading of rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire;

14. *Acknowledges* the progress made by Ghana in 2008 in strengthening its internal controls in follow-up to the administrative decision on Ghana adopted by the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, held in Gabarone from 6 to 9 November 2006, and agrees that continued implementation of the action plan by Ghana would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the Process;

15. *Notes with satisfaction* the publication for the first time of Kimberley Process rough diamond trade and production sub-annual data for 2004 to 2007, welcomes the progress made towards the collection and submission of complete and accurate statistical reports on the production of and trade in rough diamonds, and encourages all of the Process Participants to continue to enhance the quality of data, and to respond promptly to Process analyses of these data;

16. *Also notes with satisfaction* the development, in line with paragraph 7 of its resolution 60/182 and paragraph 7 of its resolution 61/28, of "footprints", size-frequency distribution diagrams, that characterize the diamond production of Côte d'Ivoire, the Marange diamond field in Zimbabwe and Togo and the continued work undertaken for Ghana, and the development of statistical protocols to allow comparison of the export footprints with the established production footprint of the Participants;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the publication of a consolidated matrix of inventories of Participants engaged in artisanal alluvial diamond production and the continued efforts to follow up on the effective implementation of the Moscow declaration on improving internal controls over alluvial diamond production;

18. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the declaration on internal controls in diamond trading and manufacturing centres endorsed by the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, held in Brussels from 5 to 8 November 2007, and encourages all such centres to carry out effective enforcement measures, including those set out in the guidance on internal controls for Participants engaged in trading and manufacturing, as part of their own internal controls for ensuring adequate Government oversight over the trade in rough diamonds;

19. *Notes with appreciation* the assistance and capacity-building efforts extended by various donors, and encourages other donors to provide financial and technical expertise to Kimberley Process Participants to help them to develop tighter monitoring and control measures;

20. *Acknowledges with great appreciation* the important contribution that India, as Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2008, has made to the efforts to curb the trade in conflict diamonds, and takes note that the Process has selected Namibia as Chair and Israel as Vice-Chair of the Process for 2009;

21. *Requests* the Chair of the Kimberley Process to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the Process;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict".

67th plenary meeting
11 December 2008

General Assembly

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3 March 2009

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 42

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/63/L.51 and Add.1)*]

63/135. Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/5 of 3 November 2003, 59/10 of 27 October 2004, its decision to proclaim 2005 the International Year for Sport and Physical Education, to strengthen sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, and its resolutions 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 60/9 of 3 November 2005, 61/10 of 3 November 2006, and 62/271 of 23 July 2008,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Sport for development and peace: building on the foundations",[1] which reviews the programmes and initiatives implemented by States Members of the United Nations, United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other partners, using sport as a tool for development and peace,

Recognizing the need to strengthen and further coordinate efforts at the international level to maximize the potential of sport for contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging the major role of Member States and the United Nations system in promoting human development through sport and physical education, through its country programmes,

Acknowledging also the opportunities provided by the Games of the XXIX Olympiad and the XIII Paralympic Games in Beijing for education, understanding, peace, harmony and tolerance among and between peoples and civilizations, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 62/4 of 31 October 2007 on the Olympic Truce,

Recalling article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[2] outlining a child's right to play and leisure, and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for

[1] A/63/466.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

children",[3] stressing the promotion of physical, mental and emotional health through play and sports,

Recalling also article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[4] outlining the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport,

Recognizing the important role played by the International Convention against Doping in Sport[5] in harmonizing the actions taken by Governments in the fight against doping in sport, which are complementary to those undertaken by the sporting movement under the World Anti-Doping Code,

Acknowledging the recommendations contained in the final report of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group entitled "Harnessing the power of sport for development and peace: recommendations to Governments", and encouraging Member States to implement the recommendations,

Recognizing the Beijing Declaration on Sport for Development and Peace, calling for a renewed mandate of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group under the leadership of the United Nations,

Recognizing also the need for indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards to assist Governments to enable the consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development strategies and the incorporation of sport and physical education in international, regional and national development policies and programmes,

Recognizing further the imperative need to engage women and girls in the practice of sport for development and peace, and in this regard welcomes activities that aim to foster and encourage such initiatives at the global level, such as the 2008 International Federation of Association Football U-20 Women's World Cup, held in Chile,

1. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's decision to renew the mandate of a Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace and to incorporate the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group into the United Nations system under the leadership of the Special Adviser;

2. *Also welcomes* the establishment of a United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace, which constitutes a policy and communications platform that will facilitate partnerships, coordinate common strategies, policy and programmes and increase coherence and synergies, while simultaneously raising awareness within the United Nations system and among external partners;

3. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, including their governing bodies, international peacekeeping missions, sport-related organizations, athletes, the media, civil society and the private sector to collaborate with the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace to promote greater awareness and action to foster peace and accelerate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through sport-based initiatives and promote the integration of sport for development and peace in the development agenda, by working along the following principles, adapted from the United Nations Action

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[3] See resolution S-27/2, annex.

[4] Resolution 61/106, annex I.

[5] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-third Session, Paris, 3–21 October 2005*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 14.

Plan on Sport for Development and Peace contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session:[6]

(*a*) Global framework for sport for development and peace: further develop a framework to strengthen a common vision, define priorities and further raise awareness to promote and mainstream policies on sport for development and peace that are easily replicable;

(*b*) Policy development: promote and support the integration and mainstreaming of sport for development and peace in development programmes and policies;

(*c*) Resource mobilization: promote innovative funding mechanisms and multi-stakeholder arrangements at all levels, on a voluntary basis, including the engagement of sport organizations, civil society, athletes and the private sector;

(*d*) Evidence of impact: promote and facilitate common evaluation and monitoring tools, indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards;

4. *Encourages* Member States to designate focal points for sport for development and peace within their governments;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to provide institutional structures, appropriate quality standards and competencies and promote academic research and expertise in the field to enable ongoing training, capacity-building and education of physical education teachers, coaches and community leaders in sport for development and peace programmes;

6. *Encourages* the use of sport as a vehicle to foster development and strengthen education for children and young persons; prevent disease and promote health; empower girls and women; foster the inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities; and facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention and peacebuilding;

7. *Also encourages* the use of mass sport events to promote and support sport for development and peace initiatives;

8. *Invites* Member States and international sport organizations to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in their capacity-building efforts in sport and physical education, by providing national experiences and best practices as well as financial, technical and logistic resources for the development of sport programmes;

9. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying and acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[2] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[4] and the International Convention against Doping in Sport;[5]

10. *Invites* the international community to provide voluntary contributions to and to enter into innovative partnerships with the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace and the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including progress made by Member States towards implementation of the Sport for

[6] See A/61/373.

Development and Peace International Working Group policy recommendations and on the functioning of the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace and the Trust Fund for Sport for Development and Peace, and to present an action plan on sport for development and peace.

68th plenary meeting
11 December 2008

General Assembly

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3 March 2009

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 65 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/63/L.45 and Add.1)*]

63/136. Humanitarian assistance and reconstruction of Liberia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/232 of 21 December 1990, 46/147 of 17 December 1991, 47/154 of 18 December 1992, 48/197 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 E of 20 December 1994, 50/58 A of 12 December 1995, 51/30 B of 5 December 1996, 52/169 E of 16 December 1997, 55/176 of 19 December 2000, 57/151 of 16 December 2002, 59/219 of 22 December 2004 and 61/218 of 20 December 2006,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Commending the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, the International Contact Group on the Mano River Basin, the United Nations system and its specialized agencies, donor countries and institutions and governmental and non-governmental organizations for their continued support for the peacebuilding process and development of Liberia,

Commending also the United Nations Mission in Liberia for its important role in the maintenance of peace and stability in the country,

Noting with appreciation the progress made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, despite many difficulties, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Liberia and those of its partners that have so far provided assistance to the Commission,

Taking note, while conscious of further challenges, of the progress made in a number of areas, including the consolidation of governmental authority throughout the country, as evidenced by the national development agenda, which encompasses four benchmarks: security; good governance and the rule of law; economic revitalization and infrastructure; and basic services, which are also important elements for sustainable economic growth and development,

Strongly condemning all acts of gender-based violence, including sexual violence committed against civilians, in particular women and children, and underlining the need to implement the Government of Liberia/United Nations Joint Programme to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Gender-based Violence (2008–2012),

[1] A/63/295.

Stressing the need to protect women and children in post-conflict situations, and recalling the Security Council resolutions and presidential statements on women and peace and security, in particular Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000,

Taking note that the situation in Liberia remains generally stable, although fragile,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, donor countries and institutions, the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations for their valuable support in their adoption of a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding in Liberia and in the subregion;

2. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his continued efforts in mobilizing the international community, the United Nations system and other organizations to provide assistance to Liberia;

3. *Renews its invitation* to all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance to Liberia to facilitate the continued creation of an enabling environment for the promotion of peace, socio-economic development and regional security, including by emphasizing capacity-building, institution-building and employment generation in their work and ensuring that such work complements and contributes to the development of an economy characterized by a predictable investment climate conducive to entrepreneurship, good governance and the rule of law;

4. *Welcomes* the agreement, in June 2008, on the Government of Liberia/United Nations Joint Programme to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Gender-based Violence (2008–2012), and calls upon all parties to implement it;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the fact that the Government of Liberia's poverty reduction strategy has been finalized and overwhelmingly endorsed by its partners at the Liberia Poverty Reduction Forum, held in Berlin on 26 and 27 June 2008;

6. *Strongly encourages* the international community to translate the tremendous goodwill expressed at the Liberia Poverty Reduction Forum into tangible resources and support for the Government's national reconstruction agenda, including its poverty reduction strategy and actions for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

7. *Urges* the Government to continue to create an environment conducive to the promotion of socio-economic development, peace and security in the country, to the reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons and to its commitment to ensure the upholding of human rights, the rule of law and national reconciliation;

8. *Appeals* to the international community and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide adequate assistance to programmes and projects identified in the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To continue his efforts in coordinating the work of the United Nations system and mobilize financial, technical and other assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia;

(*b*) To submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session the final and comprehensive report on the implementation of humanitarian assistance and

reconstruction of Liberia, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", taking into account the peacebuilding activities in the country financed through the Peacebuilding Fund;

10. *Decides* to consider, at its sixty-fifth session, the status of international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia.

68th plenary meeting
11 December 2008

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 65 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/63/L.47 and Add.1)*]

63/137. Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 57/152 of 16 December 2002, 57/256 of 20 December 2002, 58/25 of 5 December 2003, 58/214 and 58/215 of 23 December 2003, 59/212 of 20 December 2004, 59/231 and 59/233 of 22 December 2004, 59/279 of 19 January 2005, 60/15 of 14 November 2005, 61/132 of 14 December 2006 and 62/91 of 17 December 2007,

Commending the prompt response, continued support, generous assistance and contributions of the international community, Governments, civil society, the private sector and individuals, in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, which reflect the spirit of international solidarity and cooperation to address the disaster,

Noting the Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention in the Aftermath of the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster of 26 December 2004, adopted at the special meeting of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, held in Jakarta on 6 January 2005,[1]

Recalling the Hyogo Declaration[2] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015,[3] as well as the common statement of the special session on the Indian Ocean disaster,[4] adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[5]

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[1] A/59/669, annex.

[2] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[3] Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2).

[4] Common statement of the special session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, annex II).

[5] A/63/84-E/2008/80.

Stressing the need to continue to develop and implement disaster risk reduction strategies and to integrate them, where appropriate, into national development plans, in particular through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, so as to enhance the resilience of populations in disasters and reduce the risks to them, their livelihoods, the social and economic infrastructure and environmental resources, and stressing also the need for Governments to develop and implement effective national plans for hazard warning systems with a disaster risk reduction approach,

Emphasizing that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

Emphasizing also the role of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in coordinating the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, given the importance of strengthening regional and subregional cooperation and coordination, which is essential for effective early warning system arrangements for tsunamis,

Commending the operationalization of the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, and inviting Governments, donor countries, relevant international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector and civil society to consider contributing to the Trust Fund through financial contributions and technical cooperation to support the establishment of the tsunami early warning system in accordance with the needs of the countries of the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia so that the Trust Fund contributes to the development of an integrated early warning system based on adequate resources and comprising a network of collaborative centres connected to the global system,

Stressing the need for continued commitment to assist the affected countries and their peoples, particularly the most vulnerable groups, to fully recover from the catastrophic and traumatic effects of the disaster, including in their medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and welcoming Government and international assistance measures in this regard,

Noting that progress has been achieved in the recovery and rehabilitation efforts of tsunami-affected countries, and noting also that efforts and assistance are still required to re-establish the basis for long-term sustainable development,

Welcoming the development or strengthening of disaster management institutions in some affected countries that provide leadership in comprehensive disaster risk reduction as well as strengthen emergency response at local and national levels,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts by the Governments of affected countries to undertake the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, as well as in enhancing financial transparency and accountability, with respect to the channelling and utilization of resources, including, as appropriate, through the involvement of international public auditors;

2. *Recognizes and encourages* ongoing efforts to promote transparency and accountability among donors and recipient countries by means of, inter alia, a unified financial and sectoral information online tracking system, and highlights the importance of timely and accurate information on assessed needs and the sources

and uses of funds, and the continued support of donors, where needed, for further development of online tracking systems in the affected countries;

3. *Encourages* the sharing of lessons learned by tsunami-affected countries and other relevant stakeholders with other disaster-affected and disaster-prone countries, including on how prevention, risk reduction and humanitarian assistance measures could be improved in the future;

4. *Encourages* donor communities and international and regional financial institutions, as well as the private sector and civil society, to strengthen partnerships and to continue to support the medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction needs of the affected countries;

5. *Urges* Governments of the affected countries to identify their unmet needs in terms of financial and technical assistance in order to foster the ongoing efforts to enhance national capacity and create a reliable tsunami early warning system in the region in concert with the activities of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

6. *Welcomes* the steps taken by those Governments and regional organizations to improve their legal and institutional frameworks for disaster management, and encourages them to continue to examine ways to strengthen their regulatory frameworks for international disaster assistance, including by taking into consideration, as appropriate, the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance adopted at the Thirtieth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held from 26 to 30 November 2007;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of international agencies, donor countries and relevant civil society organizations in supporting the Governments of affected countries to develop national capacity for tsunami warning and response so as to increase public awareness and provide community-based support for disaster risk reduction;

8. *Encourages* the continued effective coordination among the Governments of affected countries, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, international organizations, donor countries, regional and international financial institutions, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and private sectors involved in rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, in order to ensure the effective implementation of existing joint programmes and to prevent unnecessary duplication and reduce vulnerability to future natural hazards, as well as to adequately respond to the remaining humanitarian needs, where needed;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for the development of stronger institutions, mechanisms and capacities at the regional, national and local levels, as affirmed in the Hyogo Declaration[2] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015,[3] and the promotion of public education, awareness and community participation, in order to systematically build resilience to hazards and disasters, as well as reduce the risks and the vulnerability of populations to disasters, including an effective and sustained tsunami warning system;

10. *Stresses* the need for relevant bodies of the United Nations system, international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector to implement programmes according to assessed needs and agreed priorities of the Governments of tsunami-affected countries and to ensure full transparency and accountability for their programme activities;

11. *Calls upon* States to fully implement the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015, in particular those commitments related to assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and for disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable, physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes;

12. *Stresses* the importance of and the need for regular updating of recovery assessment by the Governments of affected countries, the United Nations system and international and regional financial institutions, based on the affected countries' national data and utilizing a consistent methodology, in order to reassess progress and identify gaps and priorities, with the participation of the local community during the recovery and reconstruction phase, in order to build back better;

13. *Recognizes* that the Tsunami Recovery Impact Assessment and Monitoring System is a valuable common analytical framework for assessing and monitoring the impact of tsunami recovery and for informing effective planning and programming;

14. *Acknowledges* that relevant activities in evaluating and strengthening the tsunami early warning systems have focused principally on establishing the system's governance structure, its technical implementation, increasing public awareness and preparedness, including training, and technical advice;

15. *Welcomes* the operationalization of Tsunami Warning Focal Points capable of receiving and disseminating tsunami advisories around the clock, and encourages the continuation of the efforts of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission supported by Member States, United Nations agencies and donors, including for developing national action plans for all countries participating in the Indian Ocean tsunami early warning system;

16. *Also welcomes* the work of the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in establishing partnership among relevant actors, and stresses the importance for countries to establish early warning systems that are people-centred;

17. *Urges* Governments and the United Nations system, in planning for disaster preparedness and responding to natural disasters, and in implementing recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, to integrate a gender perspective and provide every opportunity for women to take a full, active and equal role in all phases of disaster management;

18. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to relevant United Nations organizations, in particular the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, and other humanitarian and relevant development actors, including the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the affected countries;

19. *Welcomes* significant progress, achievements and outcomes in the affected countries, and requests the United Nations system to continue to provide its support to those countries as efforts are being mainstreamed into long-term development assistance projects and programmes.

68th plenary meeting
11 December 2008